

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A system comprising:

two or more power line communication units, each coupled to and sending an identifier over at least one power circuit; and,

a management component responsive to at least some of the identifiers sent over the power circuits and including a representation or verification of couplings of the communications units to the at least one power circuit.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein each communication unit further receives other identifiers over the at least one power circuit, and the management component is further responsive to at least some of the other identifiers received by each communication unit.

3. The system of claim 2, further comprising a power component coupled to and sending an identifier over the at least one power circuit; and

wherein the management component is further responsive to the identifier sent by the power component.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a power component coupled to the at least one power circuit and receiving the identifiers over the at least one power circuit and sending the identifiers received to the management component.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of sub-systems, each sub-system encompassing at least one of the power line communication units; and

wherein the management component includes a verification or representation of connections of the power line communication units of each sub-system to the at least one power circuit.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein each sub-system has a corresponding management component that includes a verification or representation of connections of the power line communication units of said sub-system to the at least one power circuit.

7. The system of claim 5, comprising two or more power circuits; and
wherein the management component includes a verification of connections of the power line communication units of each sub-system to at least two of the power circuits.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of power supplies corresponding to the power line communication units.

9. The system of claim 1, further comprising a sub-system including the two or more power line communication units, two or more power supplies each coupled to one of the communication units, and the management component.

10. The system of claim 1, comprising two or more management components.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the plurality of management components are networked together.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one power circuit comprises two or more power circuits, and at least some of the power circuits correspond to different power sources.

13. A method comprising:

collecting a plurality of identifiers sent by a plurality of power line communication units over one or more power circuits to which the plurality of power line communication units are coupled; and,

verifying or representing couplings of the power line communication units to the one or more power circuits by using at least some of the plurality of identifiers.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more power circuits comprise a plurality of power circuits; and

wherein verifying or representing that the power line communication units are properly coupled to the one or more power circuits comprises verifying or representing that a plurality of sub-systems over which the plurality of power line communication units are partitioned each has a sub-plurality of power line communication units partitioned thereto that are coupled to more than one of the plurality of power circuits.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of identifiers are collected directly from the plurality of power line communication units, each communication unit sending for collection a self-identifying one of the plurality of identifiers.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein each communication unit also sends for collection one or more other identifiers received over the one or more power circuits; and

wherein using at least the plurality of identifiers comprises also using at least some of the other identifiers sent by each communication unit.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of identifiers are collected directly from one or more power circuit components receiving the plurality of identifiers from over the one or more power circuits over which the plurality of power line communication units sent the plurality of identifiers.

18. An article for use with identifiers produced by two or more power line communication units connected to at least one power circuit, the article comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

a power circuit identifier receiver in the medium responsive to the identifiers;

a management component in the medium, and responsive to the power circuit identifier receiver, and including a verification or representation of connections of at least some of the two or power line communication units to the at least one power circuit.

19. The article of claim 18, wherein the power circuit identifier receiver is further responsive to other identifiers received by at least some of the power line communication units from others of the power line communication units and sent by said at least some of the power line communication units to the power circuit identifier receiver; and

wherein the management component is further responsive to the other identifiers, and further includes a verification or representation of whether said at least some of the power line communication units and said others of the power line communication units are connected to the same power circuit.

20. The article of claim 18, wherein the medium is one of a modulated carrier signal and a recordable data storage medium.